



Friends of Lake Claremont



A hatchling turtle spotted at the lake last week

Photo by Bob Trotter

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SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF DUCK BOX PROJECT

Text and photos by Rose Senior

The FOLC Busy Bee held on 12th April had two objectives: first, to clear out the shed at the north east corner of the Lake and arrange tools and equipment for easy access, and second, to install four customised duck boxes at strategic locations on the Lake bed. The latter was a challenging task, since the 2m jarrah supports onto which the boxes had to be screwed were heavy and difficult to manoeuvre, while the lake bed was squelchy from recent rains.

The installation of the duck boxes marked the successful culmination of a year-long project undertaken by the Friends of Lake Claremont. It began with the suggestion that it might be both cheaper and more practical to have duck boxes constructed locally, rather than importing them from the Eastern States. FOLC Board member Claire Brittain and Greg Simpson (the Town of Claremont Bush Care Officer) investigated the possibility of having a member of the Mosman Park Men's Shed construct the boxes. A volunteer was readily found and three months later Tony Lalor had crafted not only seven customised duck boxes, but also three parrot and two possum boxes. The exterior plywood for all these boxes was generously donated by Vern Williamson of WA Timber Sales.

The Friends were excited when a trial box placed near the lake last October was soon appropriated by a pair of pink-eared ducks, who could be seen standing on the roof. Tell-tale signs in the form of moulted feathers and droppings on the landing strip at the front of the box indicated that the ducks had decided to take up residence and incubate a clutch of eggs within its cosy interior. Two further boxes were then installed at other locations.

At the April Busy Bee Kevin McAlpine and Nick Cook, aided by four young volunteers, manoeuvred the four remaining duck boxes into place and stabilised their plinths with concrete pavers.



Tony Lalor with his duck boxes



Kevin McAlpine and Nick Cook

Half way through the morning a welcome respite from this heavy work was provided by Soozie and Geoff Ross in the form of tea, coffee, home-made jam, cream and fresh scones still warm from the oven. It was particularly gratifying that Tony Lalor was able to join us to enjoy the morning and see his handiwork securely installed at different locations around the Lake.



Kevin McAlpine and Nick Cook

APRIL SECOND SUNDAY MORNING

Text by Amina Syed

It was the second Sunday again – the busy bee morning at Lake Claremont.

We were a few minutes late and saw at the entrance to the path leading to the lake, a few familiar faces – teenagers from the school. There was no Joan minding the “gate ” today to direct latecomers. We walked to Heidi’s place and found some bags and helped ourselves to a pair of gloves each, and then returned to the park to find the rest. It was a beautiful day – the breeze and mild drizzle heralded the end of the summer. My husband wants me to walk with him early in the mornings and his prayers had just come true – reluctantly, I admitted that it is so much better than my insistent Sunday morning lie in!

We strolled into the park on the paths that had now become familiar after the tour with Heidi. Lake Claremont for me that day had changed from just a park to the sacred bush country. It is what had fascinated me about Australia when growing up in Pakistan. I used to watch TV programs and read books sent from Australia. Did I tell ever tell you that since I was a very young girl it was my dream to come here? I loved horses, growing up on a racecourse and for me the perfect setting for the “cowgirl” that I was going to be was the rough outback. As we walked through, I told Bilal about the history of the Lake and pointed out the variety of plants, trees and wildlife that I had been told about. I was the guide today. We asked some early walkers if they had come across the group we were supposed to be helping but no one seemed to have seen them. We thought it would have been simple but we could not find them either. So we just continued walking and I was so glad. This walk was so important. I had been listening carefully, penning notes last time but today I was savoring the information that I had learnt.

It was a different day – not hot but just perfect!! My husband started his career as an electrical engineer but switched to environment in the early 90’s. I was unfamiliar with the subject and felt out of conversations when we met his colleagues, particularly when he became part of Lead International Founding Cohort. So I decided to educate myself as a volunteer at WWF.

► *Story continued on following page.*

It was a most rewarding experience. As we walked along, I shared with him a desire to replicate the FOLC passion in Lahore, Pakistan on the site of the River Ravi – the historic river that flows off the great Indus through the heart of the land of the ancient Indus Valley civilization. Marking the edge of the old city of Lahore, and historical land mark, it is a dumping pit. One of the reasons is the dam built by our neighbors. We became so absorbed with the idea that we forgot the main reason for coming, quite accepting that we may not find the others at all. Walkers exchanged greetings with us and we stopped to admire dogs.

As we reached the Lake entrance, facing Scotch Oval, I was fascinated by the water collecting within and the lush green patches of growth- it had been dry and seemingly abandoned last time – just a couple of weeks ago but the story was different today... the water and the breeze and the drizzle had brought a lot of birds. I stood watching them. I was seeing everything through a new lens today. One needs to be informed before attitudes can be changed! Every acorn may be home to an insect, every leaf food for another, the bees are essential to keep the food cycle going, the dogs must be on leash so they do not sniff out the wildlife, we must protect the privacy of other species , we must not take anything ... the words resonated in my mind. Bilal stood equally fascinated by the old trees and their trunks near the jetty half suspended on the lake. It reminded him of his beloved Aitchson College which has the same trees. That was another thing - the green city of Lahore had been clearing up fast to make way for the teeming population. Old trees were being replaced by concrete. Perth reminds me of the Lahore we grew up in. The clear skies -the busy parrots and the lush green everywhere, but most importantly the calm. My city has changed; I prayed earnestly that Perth would not. The constant expansion - wider roads and the bigger airports and constant new housing schemes alarm me but I have no statistics to prove anything. Just some fears to voice! Feeble words of caution!

We had taken a full cycle. As we took a smaller path leading up to Strickland Street we came across Aaron Salter, one of my favorite Scotch boys. He loves my curries! He was with some others carting a cement block on a wheelbarrow. I asked him about Heidi - quite sure now that the familiar faces were no doubt volunteers for the day. She was in the shed and later I was told they had been clearing the shed and doing odd jobs around the park. Not very exciting but essential housekeeping that reminded me that all was not just fun.



► Juvenile magpie

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Text and photo by David Free

This is one of our commonest birds and is loved for its beautiful, melodious song. Magpies form social groups of up to twenty birds and fiercely defend their territory against other groups. They regularly nest at the lake; search the eucalypts at the northern end for large round nests made of sticks.

► *Story continued on following page.*

Magpies feed mainly on insects, but they will take frogs and nestlings of smaller birds. They will also eat suitable plant matter, such as grain.



► *Male magpie*



► *Female magpie*

The photos show the differences between adult male (white back), adult female (black back feathers edged white) and juvenile (buffy brown). Immature males resemble the female and may take up to four years to develop the pure white back.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Photo by Geoff Ross, text by Heidi Hardisty

Anthoercis littorea - Yellow Tailflower

This species grows mainly on limestone sands near the coast. *Anthocercis* species are known as fireweeds because they proliferate after fires.



► *Anthocercis littorea - Yellow Tailflower*



TED'S CORNER - ANNIE FALCONER

I moved to Elliott Road, Claremont in late 1998 and felt so lucky to live opposite the green space of the golf course, as it was then, and the lake. I have always loved being close to nature and a walk around the lake after a day in the office would restore my sense of calm and well being.

In 2003 I contacted Soozie Ross when I saw her invitations in the local papers to join the Friends of Lake Claremont and my son and I joined the band of monthly busy bee volunteers and helped with planting, mainly, for about a year.

► *Story continued on following page.*

Soozie became a close friend and over the next ten years kept me up to date with the work done by the Friends of Lake Claremont and her role in it. In late 2013 she introduced me to Heidi Hardisty and, as my day job's hours had been reduced, I offered to help Heidi in an administrative capacity for a few hours a week.

So in 2014 I became the co-ordinator of the monthly newsletter and also recorded on spreadsheets the number of hours worked by volunteers in 2013 and 2014. I was so pleased to be part of the organisation that was doing so much good work for the precious green space in our corner of the world.

I am still recording the volunteer hours but for health reasons have had to hand over the co-ordination of the newsletter to the very capable Hilary Heptinstall.

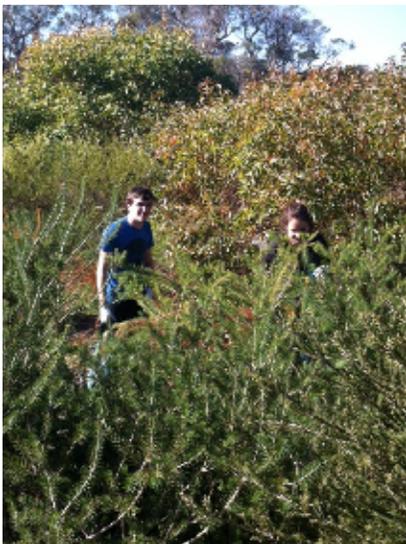
I take my hat off to all the Friends of Lake Claremont for giving of their time and expertise in looking after our lake and this newsletter does a great job of educating us and keeping us informed.

Thank you!

MOTHERS' DAY WEEDING SESSION

An enthusiastic group of weeders turned up at 9.00am on May 10 to tackle the area at the bottom of Strickland St. It was challenging work, as the growth is dense in this area. It was good to see Joan Toccock recovered and working on the registration desk once again. At the end of the session, the weeders were treated to a delicious morning tea at the home of Soozie and Geoff Ross.

Photos by Terry Heptinstall



► *Weeders at work*



► *Joan Toccock on registration*

LAKE CLAREMONT PLANTING SESSIONS

Text by Heidi Hardisty

Another massive planting season is about to begin at Lake Claremont. The Friends of Lake Claremont will lead hundreds of volunteers from the local and wider community in planting over 33,000 seedlings from mid-June to mid-August.

Please consider joining in. Our most popular public planting sessions are:

- Local Residents Planting Day (Sunday 14th June)
- Planting for the Birds (Sunday 12th July)
- National Tree Day (Sunday July 26th)
- Volunteering alongside the Conservation Volunteers June 22nd – 26th

Please see the events page on the FOLC website and the planting calendar below.

We will welcome back the Conservation Volunteers, the Big Help Mob and the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing who contribute enormously to our project and many others throughout Western Australia.

In addition, hundreds of students participate from local schools including:

- Moerlina School
- Mount Claremont Primary School
- Freshwater Bay Primary School
- Quintilian School
- Scotch College Middle School

We would also like to thank Bunnings in Claremont for donating trowels and 50 pairs of gloves for our planting projects this year.

2015 Planting Projects Detail:

A total of 33,280 seedlings will be planted in 2015 with support from the Town of Claremont and 4 major grants:



- 1. State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Grant - \$28,000 Creating Native Woodland - 16,300 seedlings**



- 2. 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant - Remnant Bushland Infill – 1600 seedlings (winter 2015)**



3. **Swan River Trust and Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP)**
- \$16,000 – Restoring the Wetland Buffer - 10,600 seedlings



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

4. **Caring for Our Country -Community Environment Grant 2014-** Restoring the Wetland Buffer - Completion of grant – 4780 seedlings

PLANTING CALENDAR

Lake Claremont Planting Schedule 2015

June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					FUGRO TSM/ YEAR10s - 9am - 3pm/ 1:30 - 3:00 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	SSJ - 9am - 2:30 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
PUBLIC - Local residents Planting Day - 9am - 12 pm <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	Freshwater Bay Primary School (53) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> - <u>Moerlina School</u> (9) - 1:00 - 3:00pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	Quintillian School(50) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	Mount Claremont Primary School(22) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Quintillian School (34) - 1:00 - 3:00 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	Scotch College Middle School (24) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Quintillian School (30) - 1:00 - 3:00 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	Scotch College Middle School/ Year10s (24) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Scotch College Middle School / Year 10s (24) - 1:00 - 3:00 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
SSJ - 9am - 3 pm <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	CV, Public - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Scotch College Middle School (24) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Scotch College Middle School (24) - 1:00 - 3:00 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	CV, Public - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Scotch College Middle School (24) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Scotch College Middle School (24) - 1:00 - 3:00 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	CV, Public - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Scotch College Middle School (24) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Scotch College Middle School (24) - 1:00 - 3:00 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	CV, Public - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Scotch College Middle School (24) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Wetland Buffer</u> Scotch College Middle School (24) - 1:00 - 3:00 pm - <u>Wetland Buffer</u>	CV, Public - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm - <u>Remnant Bushland</u> Scotch College Middle School/ Year 10s(24) - 9:00 - 11:30 am - <u>Remnant Bushland</u>	Big Help Mob - 9am - 1pm - Old Tin Shed
28	29	30				

Groups:

CV – Conservation Volunteers SSJ

– Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing

Year 10s from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SSJ/Public - Planting for the Birds - <u>Old Tin Shed</u>						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					Scotch College Boarders/ Year 10s - 9am - 3pm/1:30 - 3:00 pm - <u>Old Tin Shed</u>	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Public - National Tree Day - 9am - 12 pm - <u>Old Tin Shed</u>						

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						Uni Students - National Student Volunteer Week - 9am - 1pm - <u>Old Tin Shed</u>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						SSJ - Indian Independence Day - 9am - 2pm - <u>Old Tin Shed</u>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Groups:

CV – Conservation Volunteers

SSJ

– Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing

Year 10s from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School

Lake Claremont Planting Locations 2015



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Lake-Claremont/159586380873009?ref=hl>

The Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd. (FOLC) is a community organization established and run by local residents all of whom are volunteers.

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